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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,086	10/12/2001	Christopher Lockton Brandin	NEO-0101	1925

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EXAMINER

ALI, MOHAMMAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,086

Applicant(s)

BRANDIN ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad Ali

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 9-16 and 19-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 12 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed on October 12, 2001.
2. Claims 1-27 are pending in this Office Action. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 12, and 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: "an control" should be written as "**a control**".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1, 6, 9-16, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Slaughter et al. ('Slaughter' hereinafter), US Patent 6,643,650 B1.

With respect to claim 1,

Slaughter discloses an control method for an extensible markup language file, comprising the steps (see col. 18, lines 13-25) of:

a) receiving a query from a user (client query as to the capabilities of the service without the gate actually sending a message, see col. 27, lines 43-45, Fig. 2, Slaughter);

b) determining an access control rule associated with the user (clients finds the advertisements in a space and use the information from an advertisement to access a service using an XML (eXtensible Markup Language) messaging mechanism of the distributed computing environment. Many spaces exists, each containing XML advertisements that describe services or content. A space repository of XML advertisements of services and/or XML data, which have raw data or advertisements for data, such as results, see co. 8, lines 2-9, Slaughter);

c) performing a query search on the extensible markup language file (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter);

d) storing a query search result (the client access the results or pass them by reference to another service. The space results stored in different from the space in which the service is advertised, see col. 18, lines 23-26, Fig. 9, Slaughter);

e) performing an access search on the extensible markup language file (a result gate generated to access the actual results. The client or client method gate may receive a results URI and perhaps a result XML schema and/or authentication credential for constructing a gate to access the remote method results, see col. 31, lines 26-30 et seq, Slaughter);

f) storing an access search result (the client access the results or pass them by reference to another service. The space results stored in different from the space in which the service is advertised, see col. 18, lines 23-26, Fig. 9 et seq, Slaughter); and

g) comparing the query search result and the access search result to determine an allowed search result (search criteria specified as an XML template document that may be compared (e.g. by the space service) with the advertisements in the space. Published advertisements may represent "on-line" services ready for clients to use, see col. 36, lines 66 to col. 37, lines 3, Slaughter).

As to claim 6,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (a) further includes the step of: a1) converting the query into an execution stack (see col. 26, lines 36-41 et seq).

As to claim 9,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (c) further includes the steps of: c1) flattening the extensible markup language file to form a flattened extensible markup language file (see col. 10, lines 25-34 et seq).

As to claim 10,

Slaughter teaches c2) returning a line number of the flattened extensible markup language file (see col. 9, lines 31-47 et seq).

As to claim 11,

Slaughter teaches g1) performing an intersection between a plurality of line numbers from the query search result and a second plurality of line numbers from the access search result (see col. 18, lines 13-26 et seq).

With respect to claim 12,

Slaughter discloses an control method for an extensible markup language file, comprising the steps (see col. 18, lines 13-25) of:

a) determining an access control rule for a user (clients finds the advertisements in a space and use the information from an advertisement to access a service using an XML (eXtensible Markup Language) messaging mechanism of the distributed computing environment. Many spaces exists, each containing XML advertisements that describe services or content. A space repository of XML advertisements of services and/or XML data, which have raw data or advertisements for data, such as results, see co. 8, lines 2-9, Slaughter);

b) receiving a query from the user (client query as to the capabilities of the service without the gate actually sending a message, see col. 27, lines 43-45, Fig. 2, Slaughter);

c) performing an access control search against the extensible markup language file to form an access control result (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter);

d) performing a query search against the extensible markup language file to form a query search result (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter); and

e) comparing the access control result and the query search result to determine an allowed search result (search criteria specified as an XML template document that may be compared (e.g. by the space service) with the advertisements in the space. Published advertisements may represent "on-line" services ready for clients to use, see col. 36, lines 66 to col. 37, lines 3, Slaughter).

As to claim 13,

Slaughter teaches a1) creating an access control query statement (see col. 28, lines 65 to col. 29, lines 5 et seq).

As to claim 14,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (b) further includes the step of: b1) converting the query into an executable stack (see col. 26, lines 36-41 et seq).

As to claim 15,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (a) further includes the step of: a1) creating an access control query statement containing a predicate (see col. 21, lines 19-23 et seq).

With respect to claim 16,

Slaughter discloses an control method for an extensible markup language file, comprising the step (see col. 18, lines 13-25) of:

a) performing an access search on the extensible markup language file to form an access search result (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter);

b) performing a query search on the extensible markup language file to form a query search result (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter); and

c) comparing the access search result to the query search result to form an allowed search result (clients finds the advertisements in a space and use the information from an advertisement to access a service using an XML (search criteria specified as an XML template document that may be compared (e.g. by the space

service) with the advertisements in the space. Published advertisements may represent "on-line" services ready for clients to use, see col. 36, lines 66 to col. 37, lines 3, Slaughter).

As to claim 19,

Slaughter teaches wherein a1) determining a user's organization (see Abstract et seq);

a2) retrieving an access control rule based on the user's organization (see Abstract).

As to claim 20,

Slaughter teaches wherein (a1) flattening the extensible markup language file (see col. 8, lines 2-20 et seq).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter et al. ('Slaughter' hereinafter), US Patent 6,643,650 B1 in view of Robert Scheer ('Scheer' hereinafter), US PG Pub 2002/0138358 A1 .

With respect to claim 21,

Slaughter discloses a method of control in an extensible markup language file, comprising the steps (see col. 18, lines 13-25) of:

a) predefining a pattern (the desired name specified in the lookup message may include one or more wildcards. Each of the discovered documents may then have a name that matches the desired name, and the names may identify the discovered documents within the space, see col. 10, lines 40-45 et seq, Slaughter).

b) searching for the pattern (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter); and

c) when a pattern is found, altering the extensible markup language file or creating an extensible markup language document (search criteria specified as an XML template document that may be compared (e.g. by the space service) with the

advertisements in the space. Published advertisements may represent "on-line" services ready for clients to use, see col. 36, lines 66 to col. 37, lines 3, Slaughter).

Slaughter does not explicitly indicate the claimed trigger.

Scheer disclose the claimed trigger (database triggers to cause certain agent and business transaction events to be triggered whenever certain types of ontology maintenance takes place against, see paragraph 0110 et seq, Scheer).

It would have obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combined the cited references because the triggers of Scheer's teachings would have allowed Slaughter's system to provide the fulfillment plan that most closely meets the predetermined criteria is selected to implementation in a position, as suggested by Scheer in paragraph 0006. Triggers as taught by Slaughter improves to fulfill a plan in the database (see paragraph 0002, Scheer).

As to claim 22,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (a) includes predefining a command (see col. 16, lines 39-45 et seq).

As to claim 23,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (a) includes predefining a tag(see col. 16, lines 31-45 et seq).

As to claim 24,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (a) includes predefining a data (see col. 16, lines 31-45 et seq).

As to claim 25,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (c) includes performing an access control search (see col. 11, lines 2-15 et seq).

As to claim 26,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (c) includes deleting a portion of the extensible markup language file (get modified at to the contents of the message schema after the gate is created, including deleting, adding, or modifying messages in the schema, see col. 20, lines 60-67, Slaughter).

As to claim 27,

Slaughter teaches wherein step (c) includes performing a translation of a portion of the extensible markup language file (the discovery service receive a string specifying something to locate, and it sends an XML message to a known discovery front-end, which then parses the string and makes a corresponding XML query to a search facility which may be an internet search facility, see col. 16, lines 39-46, Fig. 4, Slaughter).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2-5, 7-8 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art or records does not fairly teach or suggest the combination of elements wherein comparing a search convergence depth to an access convergence depth; when the search convergence depth is equal to the access convergence depth, performing an intersection between the query search result and the access search result to form an intersection result;

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when the access rule is a hide command, the allowed search result is a non-intersecting result.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (703) 605-4356. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790 or Customer Service (703) 306-5631. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for any communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.


Mohammad Ali

Patent Examiner

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MA

January 20, 2004